



Embassy of the United States of America

Bujumbura Burundi

PRESS RELEASE

25 July 2013

U.S. Embassy launches “Andika Prize” - first English literary prize in Burundi

U.S. Ambassador Dawn Liberi officially launched the “Andika Prize” for short stories, the first English literary prize in Burundi, on July 25 at the Embassy of the United States of America in Kigobe. This initiative is part of the U.S. Government’s commitment to promote English in support of Burundi’s integration into the East African Community. H.E. Leontine Nzeyimana, Minister of East African Community Affairs and H.E. Adophe Rukenkanwa, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, attended the launch along with representatives of Trademark East Africa, Williams Academy and the Iwacu Press Group.

The Andika Prize seeks to expand understanding of Burundi within the English-speaking East African Community and around the world. Ambassador Liberi encouraged all prospective participants to explore the Information Resource Center library located in the New Embassy Compound and American Corners. These facilities have many resources, including an African literature collection in English.

The competition is open to all Burundians who are 18 years of age and older residing in Burundi. It will run from July 25 until October 15. The subject of the short stories is open, but entries must be no longer than 3000 words. A panel of judges from Williams Academy, Iwacu Press Group, and the U.S. Embassy will review the entries. Contest winners will be announced early in 2014 – the writers of the top three entries will each receive an iPad, and their stories will be published for nationwide distribution.

The Andika Prize is organized with the support of Trademark East Africa and Williams Academy. Roland Rugero, who is a leader in the Burundi literary scene, will coordinate the prize. Mr. Rugero will attend the prestigious Iowa International Writers program in August as one of three participants from Africa, and he will conduct week-long workshops for the Andika Prize participants upon his return to Burundi.

For more information on the Andika Prize, please stop by the Iwacu Press Group office at 6 Avenue de France, Rohero, Bujumbura. You may also call +257 22 25 89 57 or email andika@iwacu-burundi.org if you have any questions.